

**We Claim:**

1. A method for metering the use of computing resources comprising the steps of:
  - 5 recording, as process accounting information, the use of computing resources for a plurality of processes that relate to service requests made by users;
  - 10 recording service request information for the service requests made by the users;
  - correlating the recorded process accounting information and the recorded service request information; and
  - 15 providing resource usage information for each of the service requests based upon the correlated process accounting information and service request information.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of allocating  
20 resource usage to service requests that simultaneously use a computing resource between the overlapping requests.
3. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of correlating request logging information and usage logging information.
- 25 4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of processes include processes dynamically spawned by processes for which process accounting information is recorded.
- 30 5. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of maintaining an active request list of the service requests made by the users.

6. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein separate active lists are maintained for each of the processes.

7. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of calculating the relative weight of each of the service requests.

8. The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising the step of allocating the resource usage in proportion to calculated relative weights to the service requests.

9. A computer system for metering the use of computer resources comprising computer software recorded on a computer-readable medium for performing the steps of:

recording, as process accounting information, the use of computing resources for a plurality of processes that relate to service requests made by users;

recording service request information for the service requests made by the users;

correlating the recorded process accounting information and the recorded service request information; and

providing resource usage information for each of the service requests based upon the correlated process accounting information and service request information.

10. A computer program product for metering the use of computer resources comprising computer software recorded on a computer-readable medium for performing the steps of:

recording, as process accounting information, the use of computing resources for a plurality of processes that relate to service requests made by users;

5                    recording service request information for the service requests made by the users;

                  correlating the recorded process accounting information and the recorded service request information; and

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                  providing resource usage information for each of the service requests based upon the correlated process accounting information and service request information.

15    11.    A system for metering the use of computing resources comprising:

                  at least one computer server for executing service requests made by users;

20                    a monitoring agent associated with the computer server and able to access process accounting information for processes executing the service requests stored in operating system logs of the computer server;

                  a request logging module for maintaining records of the service requests;

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                  a usage logging module maintaining records of the process accounting information obtained from the monitoring agent; and

30                    a resource usage database that maintains records of resource usage information relating to service requests by correlating the records of the request logging module and the records of the usage logging module.

12. The system as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a query module for accessing the records of resource usage information stored in the resource usage database in response to queries.